AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine Volume X Issue 3 2009

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AgriBiz!

Vol. X Issue 3 2009

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SC Department of Agriculture Launches *Certified South Carolina* Program

"The SC Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh Weathers**, has successfully launched ***Certified South Carolina,*** a new, exciting cooperative effort among producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the department to brand and promote South Carolina products," says Program Coordinator **Ansley Rast**. "A major goal of the program is to aid consumers in finding, identifying and purchasing South Carolina agricultural products because ***Nothing's Fresher*** and ***Nothing's Finer***", she added.

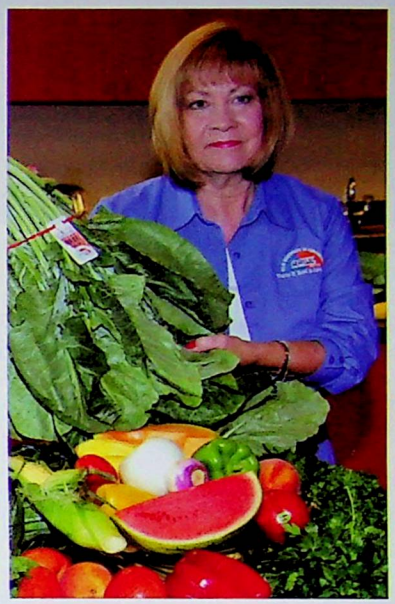
Public interest and perceptions, image and awareness, distribution, legislation, regulations all have an impact on the sustainability and growth of agribusiness. In order to tackle these issues, overcome obstacles and keep South Carolina agribusiness profitable, the department, in concert with public and private partners, is pleased with the impressive acceptance of the Certified South Carolina promotional program by the citizens of our state.

Membership in the Certified South Carolina Program is made through application to and acceptance by the SC Department of Agriculture. All Farm producers, food manufactures, specialty food growers, packing facility owners and others involved in agriculture are eligible to apply.

To be eligible to use the ***Certified South Carolina Grown*** logo, producers shall complete a list of products grown in South Carolina and submit to the department for approval. Members agree that the logo will be used only on top quality products grown in the state that meet US # 1 Quality Grade Standards or higher US Grade Standards

For additional information on the superb promotional effort visit www.certifiedscgrown.com or contact Ansley Rast, program coordinator, at 803-734-2210. (Information for this article was provided by Ansley Rast on behalf of Commissioner Weathers.)

CERTIFIED SC GROWN CM

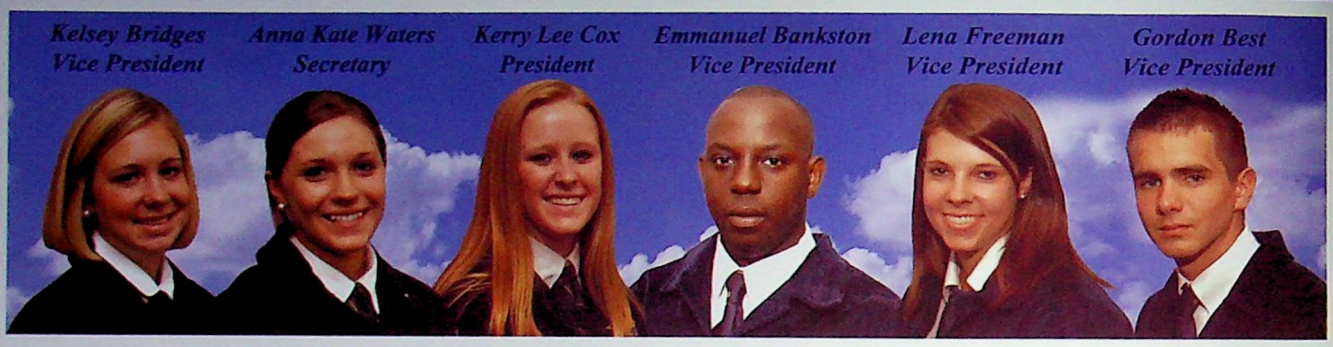


Donna Bundrick Griffin, Coordinator of Marketing and Promotions with Walter P. Rawl and Sons Farms headquartered in Pelion, SC, displays a beautiful design of fresh, nutritious vegetables. She arranged the vegetable design for the cover photo of AGRI-BIZ.

SC Farm Produce Marketing is on the Rise

As a result of the Certified South Carolina Grown promotional effort which includes eye-catching TV commercials, roadside farm markets are springing up all across the state as South Carolinians and out-of-state tourist increase their purchase of local, fresh and tasty farm products. More and more grocery stores and restaurants are proudly increasing their participation in this unique program designed to strengthen our state's agribusiness while providing the best in top quality South Carolina farm products to their customers.

State FFA Officers Elected at Clemson Conference



A rising senior at Clover High School, she was elected a vice president of the state association. She is the daughter of Tom and Deborah Anderson of York. Her FFA Advisor is Carrie Bolin, Agricultural Education instructor at Clover.

A 2009 graduate of Westside High School in Anderson, she was elected state secretary. She is the daughter of Chris and Dawn Patterson of Anderson. Her FFA advisors are Ashley Granata and Jay Copelan, Agricultural Education instructors at the Hanna-Westside Extension campus in Anderson.

A 2009 graduate of Latta High School, she was elected president of the SC FFA Association at the closing session of State FFA Convention at Clemson University, June 10-12. She is the daughter of Keith and Sheryl Cox of Latta. Her FFA advisor is Aaron Miles, Agricultural Education instructor at Latta.

A 2009 graduate of Battery Creek High School in Beaufort, he was also elected a state vice president. He is the son of Willie and Carolyn Huff of Beaufort. His FFA advisor is Robin Beasley, Agricultural Education instructor at the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence.

A 2009 graduate of Union High School, she was elected a state vice president. She is the daughter of Steve and Patsy Freeman of Union. Her FFA advisors are Annette Vaughan and Cleveland Jackson, Agricultural Education instructors at the Union Career and Technology Center in Union.

A 2009 graduate of Loris High School, he was elected a state vice president. He is the son of Gordon and Renee Best of Loris. His FFA advisor is Nate Bellamy, Agricultural Education instructor at Loris.

SC FFA Members at Washington Conference

Participants from left to right in front are ***Brooke Barnes, Jordan Andrews, Anna Copeland, Ashley Lane, Tessa Weatherly, Scott Sherard*** *and* ***Aaron Lindley****. Standing in back from left are* ***Aaron Raines, Jacob Derrick, Cory Price, Seamus Cassidy, Victor Quintero, Robert Crider, Wes Carnley, Jason McKay*** *and* ***T.J. Edens****.*

Sixteen FFA members and three advisors representing the Aiken, B.J. Skelton, Calhoun Falls Charter, Edisto, Anderson, Marlboro County, Pendleton and Ridge Spring-Monetta chapters participated in the 2009 Washington Leadership Conference, July 6-12.

The primary goal of the conference was designed to encourage FFA members to take their leadership skills to the highest level. An interesting program, including leadership seminars, tour of historic Washington, DC, harvesting truck crops for food banks and working on construction of an outdoor class room in the Washington area inspired the students to make a positive difference in their local communities. The South Carolina delegates visited with US Congressman Gresham Barrett of Westminster, SC, in his Washington officer. Congressman Barrett is an FFA alumnus.

South Carolina FFA advisors in attendance were **Barry Hawkins** who coordinates the trip each year; **Margaret Shelton** and **Michael Crim**.

SC FFA Hosts Conference

Pictured above are National FFA Vice President ***Laila Hajji*** *(at left front) with SC FFA Officers* ***Lena Freeman, Kerry Lee Cox, Anna Kate Waters*** *and National FFA President* ***Paul Moya****. From left in back is* ***Gordon Best, Kesley Bridges*** *and* ***Emmanuel Bankston****.*

The SC FFA Association hosted a regional meeting of the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) at the historic Francis Marion Hotel in downtown Charleston, SC, July 7-10, 2009.

South Carolina state officers were joined by state officers from Florida, Georgia and North Carolina for the four day conference led by National FFA President Paul Moya of New Mexico and Laila Hajji of Oklahoma.

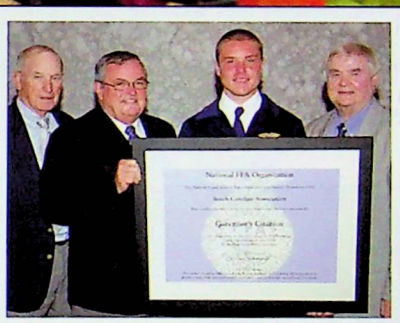
The conference was co-sponsored by national FFA supporters Monsanto, Inc., Wrangler, Archer Daniels Midland and Wayne Farms, LLC. AgSouth Agricultural Credit Association was a local sponsor in concert with the SC FFA Association.

SC Gold Emblem FFA Chapters

Three Gold Emblem FFA chapters were awarded the Governor's Citation of Accomplishment during the state convention. **Carolina Forest,** under the direction of **Harry DuBose,** received the community development citation. **McBee,** led by **Pat Earle**, was awarded the chapter development honors. **Midland Valley,** guided by **Jeremy Brooks,** accepted the student development recognition.

The citations were presented by **Larry Rogers**, an official with the USDA Farm Service Agency. **William Stanley**, representing the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, presented each chapter a check for $1000 in recognition of their accomplishments.

Six other Gold Emblem chapters were **B.J. Skelton**, **Crescent**, **Lakewood**, **Manning**, **Saluda** and **West Oak.**



William Stanley** (left), **Harry DuBose**, Carolina Forest chapter officer **Robbie Pihota** and **Larry Rogers

Larry Rogers** (left), McBee chapter president **Megan Wayne**, **Pat Earle** and **William Stanley

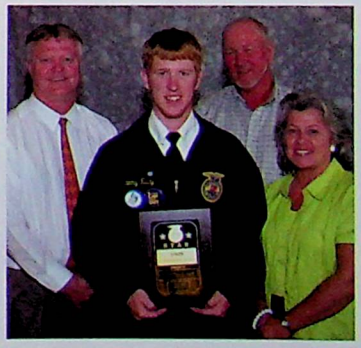
Larry Rogers** (left), Midland Valley chapter officer **Devon Puckett**, **Jeremy Brooks** and **William Stanley

SC FFA Stars

Three SC FFA members were recognized as State Stars during the state convention this summer. **Sally Yon**, **Ridge Spring –Monetta Chapter**, was named the State Star Farmer and received a check for $1200 from **Marie Stiles**, executive director, SC Cooperative Council, to defray expenses for her and Advisor **Michael Crim** to attend the National FFA Convention. Sally is the daughter of Kevin and Lydia Yon. **William J. Hardee III**, **Loris Chapter**, was recognized as the State Star in Agribusiness and awarded a check for $1200 co-sponsored by Southern States Cooperative and the SC FFA Foundation for him and Advisor **Nate Bellamy** to attend the National Convention. He is the son of W.J. and Brenda Hardee. **Jeremy Raley**, **McBee Chapter**, took top honors in Agricultural Placement and received a check for $1200 from the SC FFA Foundation for him and Advisor **Pat Earle** to attend the National Convention. He is the son of Dennis and Beverly Raley.

Marie Stiles** congratulates State Star Farmer **Sally Yon

William J. Hardee II** (left) with State Star in Agribusiness **William J. Hardee III**, and Loris School official **Barry Brooks



Pat Earle** (left) with State Star in Agricultural Placement **Jeremy Raley** and parents, **Dennis** and **Beverly Raley

State FFA Career Development Event Champions

Wagener-Salley Agricultural Mechanization Team

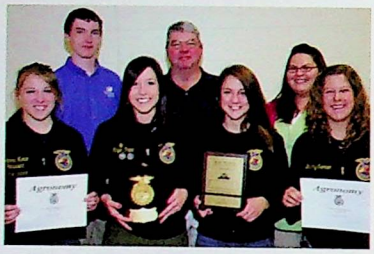
*Team coach **Allen Williams** (left) with team members **Josh Yon, Ethan Busbee, Corey Clayton** and **Brandon Medlin**.*

Gilbert Poultry Evaluation Team

*Team members (from left) **Joseph Crim, Reta Miller, Austin Drafts** and **Jesse Blount** with Team Coach **Derrick Cooper***

Abbeville Agronomy Team

*Team members **Brittany Noblin** (front left), **Kayla Price, Casey Powell** and **Brittany Sumner**. (In back from left) State FFA Secretary **Adam Gore**, Team Coach **Fred Raines** and Clemson University student teacher **Amy Williams**.*



Manning Parliamentary Procedure Team

*Team members (seated from left) **Emily Farmer, Carol-Gray Stukes** and **Lyndsey McDowell**. Standing (from left) **Emmanuella Egbonim, Logan Lane** and **Marcus Wilson**. **Michael Haynes** (not pictured) is the team coach*

Abbeville Dairy Foods Team

*Team members (left front) **Chandler Saylors, Megan Sumner, Katherine Lawrence** and **Chesnese Gray** with State FFA Vice President **Matthew Adams** (left in back), Team Coach **Fred Raines** and student teacher **Amy Williams**.*

Crescent Tractor Operation and Safety Team

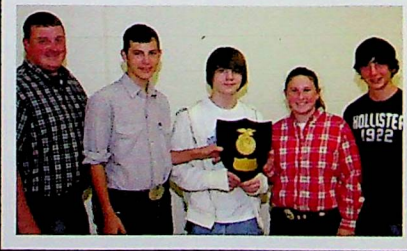
*Team members **Colby Trotter** (left), **Cory Bradford, Cory Watt** and **Perry Loftis** with Team Coach **Tim Keown***

Aynor Farm Business Management Team

*Team members **Haley Sargent** (left), **Josh Dennis, Danielle McCracken** and **Cameron Flowers** with Team Coach **Stacey Bazen**.*

Woodmont Tool Identification Team

*Team Coach **Matt Rollins** (left) with team members **David Thompson, Kendal Fant, Jordan Bryson** and **Chris Organ***



More State FFA Champions

Manning Greenhand Knowledge Bowl Team

Team members ***Amber Brown, Ron McKenzie, Amani Davies*** *and* ***Rayelyn Cantey***

Prepared Public Speaking

Coach ***Genie Archer*** *(left) with State Winner* ***Laura Anderson*** *and Coach* ***Heather Schneider R.D. Anderson***

Dacusville Middle School Round Robin Team

Team Coach ***Amy New*** *(left) with team members* ***Sarah Forest, Emily Hendrix, Brittany Malone*** *and* ***Katie McConnell***

Upper Division Creed Speaking

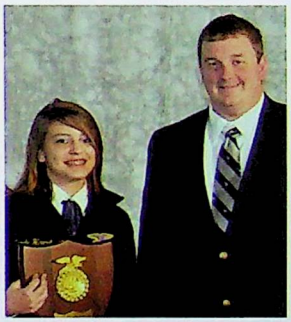
Chris Hiatt *with Coach* ***Tommy Harmon—Lexington***

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Stephanie Johnson Anderson

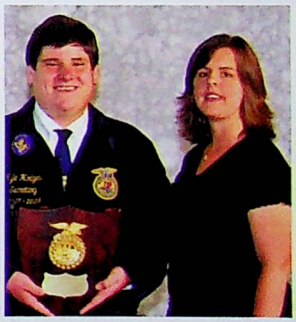
Loris Team--FFA Division of SC Envirothon

Team members ***Daniel Cooper*** *(left) with* ***Jarrett Johnson, Gordon Best, Marcel Rossignol*** *and Team Coach* ***Nate Bellamy***



Greenhand Creed Speaking

Mandy Harget *with Coach* ***Matt Rollins—Woodmont***



Job Interview

Kyle Hodges *with Coach* ***Carrie Bolin—Clover***

Manning Agricultural Issues Team

Team members ***Catelyn Anderson, Gianni Nelson, Deleisha McFadden, Darius Blanding*** *and* ***Shereka Williams. Michael Haynes*** *(not pictured) is the team coach.*

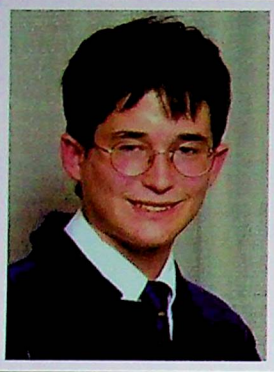
Agri-Science Fair

Jesse McGee *with Coach* ***Tim Maye Central***

State FFA Scholarship Recipients

Washington Leadership Conference

Scott Sherard
Calhoun Falls Charter School



SC Fertilizer & AgriChemicals-Hilton V. Rogers

Sally Yon
Ridge Spring-Monetta

State Individual FFA Award

Jane Snead
Belton-Honea Path

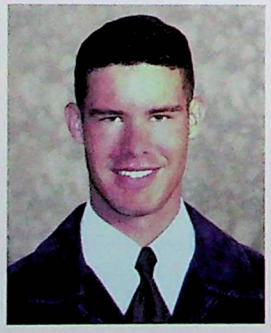
National FFA VP Meets the Press

National FFA Vice President **Riley Branch** on one of his media interviews while at the South Carolina Convention.

SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association Winners

Lena Freeman
Union

Jane Snead
Belton-Honea Path



Zachary Taylor
Gilbert

Sally Yon
Ridge Spring-Monetta

Union FFA Chapter Community Garden

Nestled on gentle sloping land in the city limits of Union is a four acre plot of land dedicated for use as a local FFA-sponsored Community Garden. This unique and exciting hands-on learning concept was initiated and pioneered by veteran Agricultural Educator **Cleveland Jackson** some years ago. "Those students who participate in the Outdoor Food Science Laboratory have an opportunity to experience the production, harvesting and marketing of top quality fresh produce," Mr. Jackson says.

"The students design the layout of the garden in the classroom before implementing their plans on the land. Drip irrigation is used to insure the garden is a success and acquaint the students with the latest in agricultural technology," Mr. Jackson added.

Among vegetables produced include tomatoes, sweet corn, okra, collards, zucchini, yellow squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe, watermelon, and pepper. The educational garden has been expanded to include a one acre area on the grounds of the Career and Technology Center.

In addition to marketing produce to local residents at the garden, the students utilize the local Farmers Market downtown to disperse of surplus vegetables. A highlight of the year at the garden is the FFA-sponsored Senior Citizens Day and Union School District Personnel Day.

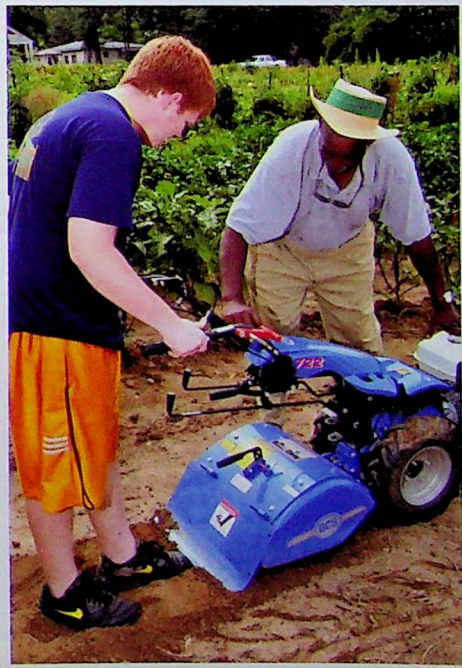
Income from the sale of vegetables is used to pay for FFA members to attend the state FFA convention at Clemson University, participate in training sessions at the SC FFA Leadership Center, serve as delegates to the National FFA Convention and the National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

"The students and other Union residents continue to discover that locally grown vegetables are fresher and tastier and make for a healthy diet," Mr. Jackson said.

As a result of the successful community garden and numerous other educational opportunities for interested students, the Union High School Agricultural Education Department has been expanded to a two-teacher program. **Annette Vaughan**, a graduate of Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville where she was an active FFA member and Honor graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Agricultural Education, joined the faculty in recent years. She is presently pursuing a Master's in Agricultural Education.

Union High School administrators continue to show their support for the Agricultural Education Department by providing the latest state-of-the art equipment needed as teaching tools and maintenance of the community garden.

*State FFA Vice President **Lena Freeman** (left front) with **Brett Shugart** and FFA Advisor **Cleveland Jackson**. (Standing from left) FFA Advisor **Annette Vaughan**, **Morgan Walker**, **Hetti Millwood**, **Ashley Williams** and **Taylor Hughey**.*



SC Agricultural Educators Conference

The SC Agricultural Educators Association met at Clemson, July 20-22, 2009, with headquarters at the Madren Center and the J.F. Martin Inn. A number of technical sessions were held at Pendleton High School.

State Officers Elected

Officers elected for the school year are: **Mark Earle,** president, Hillcrest High School; **Amanda Nichols**, president-elect, Saluda: **Barry Hawkins**, secretary-treasurer, Edisto; and **Allen Williams**, past president, Wagener-Salley. Vice Presidents elected include: **Tim Keown,** Crescent; **Annette Vaughan**, Union; **Bert Beasley**, East Clarendon; and **Michael Crim**, Ridge Spring-Monetta. Associate Vice Presidents named were **Kyle Hatcher,** Calhoun Falls Charter School; **Frank Stover**, Pelion; **Aaron Miles**, Latta; and **Pat Black**, Branchville.

Mark Earle

John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award

President **Allen Williams** presented the award to State Senator **Daniel B. Verdin III**, Laurens, SC, Chairman, Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee

Outstanding Teacher

Fred Raines
Abbeville

Outstanding Young Teacher

Abbie Piotrowsky,
Pendleton

Outstanding Adult Program

Jeremy Brooks
Midland Valley

Teacher Turn the Key Award

Aaron Miles, *Latta*

Meghan Wood, *Aiken*

Outstanding Program

Roger Estridge *and* ***Tim Keown***
Crescent

Outstanding Mentor of the Year

Glenn Stevens
Belton-Honea Path

Smith Recognized by Wagener-Sally High School

Wagener-Salley High School alumni named the Agricultural Education Department building in honor of **Spencer C. Smith** of Wagener at a special ceremony this summer. The facility is now known and appropriately identified as the "**S.C. Smith Agricultural Education Building.** Mr. Smith, a distinguished Agricultural Educator, now retired, enjoyed 35 successful years at Wagener-Salley High School.

Mr. Smith began his teaching career at Wagener in 1947. He possessed the unique ability to bridge the gap between the university and local agriculturalists by providing assistance in understanding and implementing advancements in crop and livestock production. He also became well known for his ability to teach high school students and adults agricultural equipment maintenance and repair.

"One of the most respected men in the Wagener community, Mr. Smith's life epitomizes the importance of agriculture and he inspired his students to possess a similar appreciation for the natural world around them," said **Allen Williams**, Agricultural Education instructor at Wagener-Salley High School at the present time.

Allen Williams (left) congratulates Spencer C. Smith

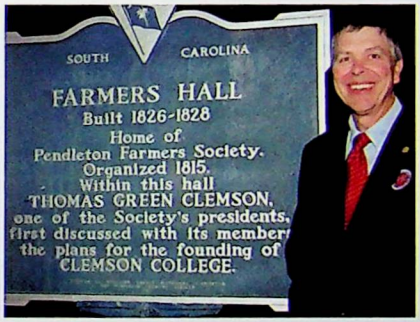
Frank R. Stover of Pelion, retired state director of Agricultural Education, said, "I know of no one who has done more for his students and community than Spencer Smith."

Selected and recognized as one of the most Outstanding Agricultural Educators in South Carolina in the twentieth century by the **AGRI-BIZ** magazine edited by **John W. Parris**, Mr. Smith graduated from Clemson University with a BS Degree in Agricultural Education and did graduate work at the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Smith is married to the former Lelline Crout of Perry, SC, and they have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Bland Named to Pendleton Farmers Society

Agricultural leader **Hugh Bland** of Edgefield was installed as a member of the historic Pendleton Farmers Society earlier this year.



Organized in 1815, the Society meets at the Farmers Hall constructed in 1828 and located in downtown Pendleton. It was in this Hall that Thomas Green Clemson, the son-in-law of John C. Calhoun and a former president of the Society, first discussed plans for establishing a land grant institution which became Clemson University.

The Pendleton Farmers Society was one of the most famous and certainly a pioneer in the struggle for organized instruction in agriculture. Thomas Pinckney, Jr., son of General Thomas Pinckney, was the first president of the Society. His Presidential Valedictory of June 1817 contains numerous references to the various research and improvements that were reported through Pendleton Farmers Society meetings.

Mr. Bland is serving as the first director of Piedmont Technical College's new Diversified Agriculture Program headquartered in Saluda. The program will offer an Associate Degree in Applied Science that will allow graduates to transfer to four-year universities including Clemson, Abraham Baldwin, the University of Georgia or Purdue.

Raines is President of Pendelton Farmers Society

Fred Raines, Agricultural Education instructor at Abbeville High School, is the new president of the prestigious and historic Pendleton Farmers Society headquartered in Pendleton, SC.

Organized in 1815, the Society meets at the Farmers Hall constructed in 1828 on the square in downtown Pendleton. It is the oldest farmers hall in continuous use in the nation.

It was in this hall that Thomas Green Clemson, the son-in-law of John C. Calhoun, first mentioned plans for establishing a land grant institution which later became a reality and today is Clemson University.

Mr. Raines joins a distinguished list of signaled agriculturalists who have served as president of the Society over its 194 year history including Thomas Pinckney, Jr., John C. Calhoun and Thomas G. Clemson.

SC Cooperative Council Presents Youth Awards

Miriam Pflug congratulates William Sherard and Emily Parkman

William Sherard, a member of the Calhoun Falls Charter High School FFA Chapter, was named recipient of the Outstanding Youth Award presented by the SC Cooperative Council at its annual meeting in Columbia. He is the son of Calvert and Suzie Sherard of Abbeville. His FFA advisor is Kyle Hatcher.

Emily Parkman of Swansea shared in the state recognition. She is the daughter of Ken and Shelia Parkman of Swansea. Mrs. Parkman is serving as chairperson of Lexington School District 4 which includes Swansea High School.

The awards were presented by Miriam Pflug, chairperson of the SC Cooperative Council and Director of Marketing with AgSouth ACA.

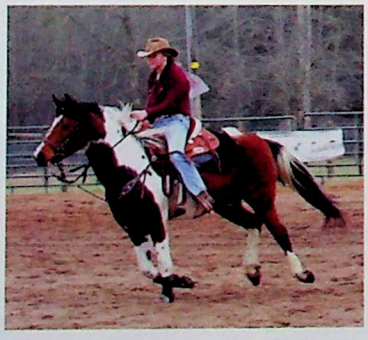
FFA Officers Participate in Peach Festival

Clemson University Collegiate FFA officers **Hannah King** and **Brandi Laws** were featured in the Lexington County Peach Festival parade in Gilbert on July 4. They also participated in the Dignitaries Luncheon.

Gilbert FFA members were featured in the parade and Chapter President **Bailey Oliger** and Vice President **Shelby Townsend** attended the Dignitaries Luncheon along with numerous agricultural and governmental leaders.

Pictured at left: ***Hannah King** (right) and **Brandi Laws** in the parade*

Barnwell & Crescent FFA Chapters Host Rodeos



The **Barnwell** FFA Chapter hosted a successful and profitable high school rodeo event and Wrangler Junior Division Rodeo earlier this year. Funds from the event are used for scholarships and leadership activities. Barnwell FFA member and rising junior **Jaret Nobles** is the only high school rodeo association roper with a sponsor. He is sponsored by Fastline Ropes and has won more than $10,000 this year. **Mindy Sandifer** is the FFA advisor at Barnwell County Career Center.

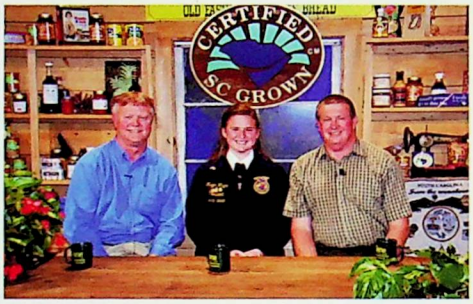
The **Crescent** Chapter hosted the second annual two-day Daniel Jarrard Memorial Rodeo in May and raised over $7500 for chapter operations and a $2500 scholarship was awarded **Amber Simpson. Tim Keown** and **Roger Estridge** are the FFA advisors at Crescent High School.

McBee FFA Featured on SC ETV

The McBee FFA Chapter was featured on the SC Educational Television (ETV) Network earlier this year.

McBee FFA Advisor **Pat Earle** and Chapter President **Megan Wayne** appeared on the poplar gardening education show, "Making It Grow," hosted by Roland Alston, an official with Clemson University.

McBee FFA Alumnus Tony Melton, a Clemson University Extension Specialist, questioned Mr. Earle and Megan about the success of Agricultural Education and the FFA in South Carolina and, specifically, at McBee High School.

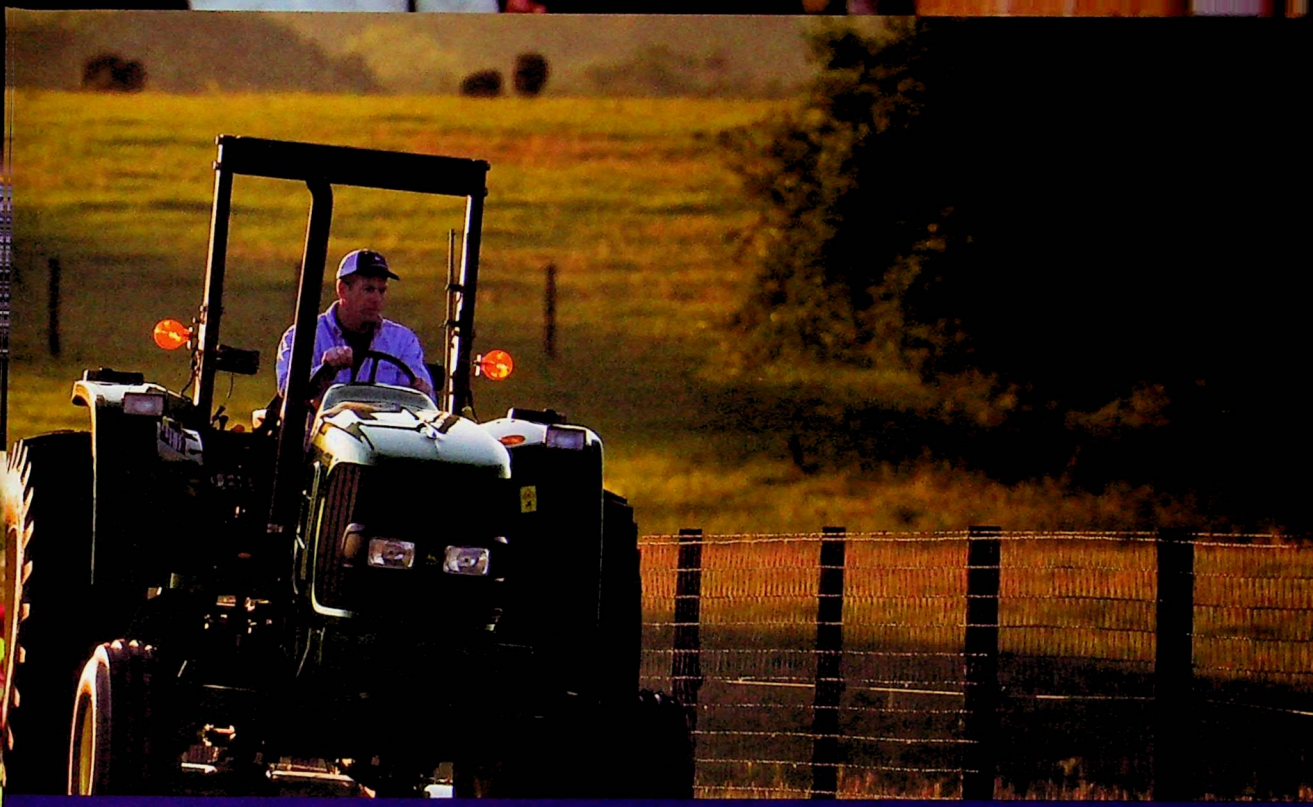


Pat Earle (left) with Megan Wayne and Tony Melton

Williams Interviewed on SC ETV Radio

Allen Williams (left), Agricultural Education instructor at Wagener-Salley High School and 2008-09 president of the SC Agricultural Educators Association, was recently featured on the SC ETV-Radio Network's "**Your Day**" program prepared and distributed by Clemson University's Office of Public Service. Clemson media official **Bob Schuster** discussed with Mr. Williams the changing face of Agricultural Education across the state and nation. The program was heard throughout South Carolina and portions of adjoining states.

Allen Williams (left) with Bob Schuster



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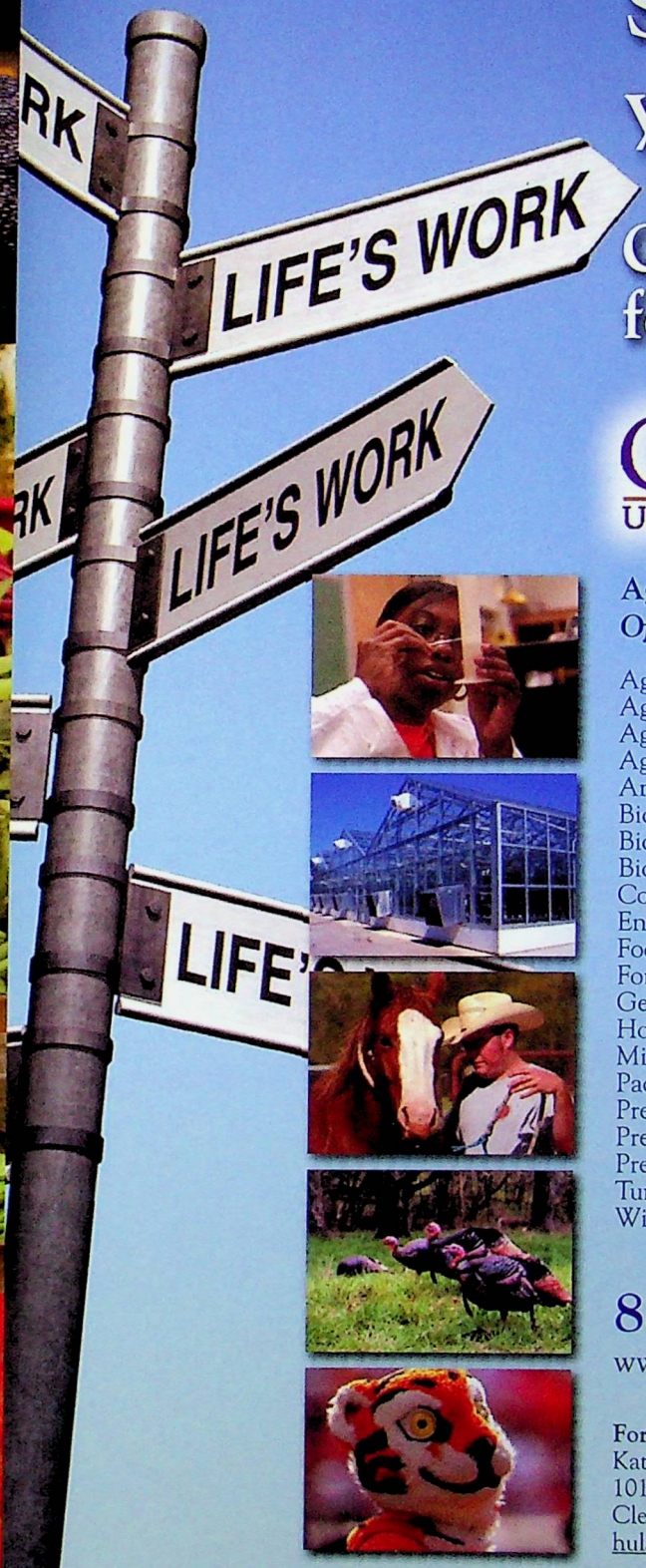

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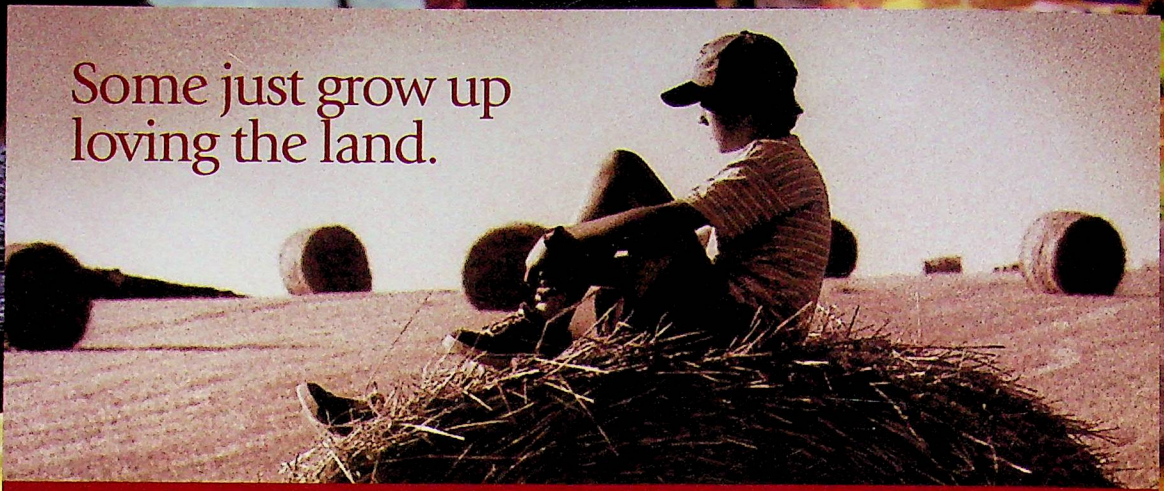

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